



Foreign Agricultural Service

**GAIN Report**

Global Agriculture Information Network

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 6/21/2001

GAIN Report #JA1523

## **Japan**

### **Agricultural Situation**

#### **This Week in Japan**

**2001**

Approved by:

**David Miller, Director, ATO Tokyo**

**U.S. Embassy, Tokyo**

Prepared by:

The U.S. Agricultural Affairs Office (Tokyo) and Agricultural Trade Offices (Tokyo/Osaka)

---

**Report Highlights: 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Housing Conference Packs the House; MAFF Making Progress on Implementing Fruit Varietal Testing Agreement; Japan Bans Imports of Chinese Poultry Meat.**

---

Includes PSD changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Tokyo ATO [JA2], JA



## *This Week in Japan*

*An Update of Major News and Events from the Largest U.S. Agricultural Export Market*

Volume V, Issue No. 23

June 21, 2001

**i 5th Annual Housing Conference Packs the House:** Acting Minister-Counselor Woolsey and Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transportation's Housing Bureau Director-General Misawa launched the 5th Annual US-Japan Housing and Forest Resources Conference. The June 15 conference, organized by the American Forest and Paper Association (AFPA), with assistance from FAS Tokyo, hosted a record 160 wood products industry and media leaders. The conference was well coordinated with the US industry and featured presentations by leading forestry management experts who demonstrated special uses of sustainably grown hardwood and laminated lumber, and the application of the electronic "B2B" model to the wood industry. The conference also provided a forum for the second AFPA American Wood Design Awards competition. (AgAffairs Tokyo)

**i MAFF Making Progress on Implementing Fruit Varietal Testing Agreement:** On Thursday, June 14, MAFF informed AgAffairs staff that the Ministry has initiated procedures to implement its agreement with the United States on quarantine treatment efficacy for additional varieties of stone fruit. The official said MAFF intends to make the necessary amendments to its plant quarantine regulations after a public hearing, to be held sometime this summer. As a preliminary step, MAFF held its first "explanation" meeting with local apple and cherry growers on June 14th to discuss the agreement and MAFF's implementation plans. Two additional grower meetings are scheduled for later this month. (AgAffairs Tokyo)

**i Japan Bans Imports of Chinese Poultry Meat:** MAFF announced on June 7 a suspension of Chinese poultry meat imports due to the detection in Korea of Avian Flu Virus (H5N1) from Chinese origin duck meat. The ban's impact on consumption and poultry meat trade flow will depend on the length of the suspension period. The news may negatively impact chicken meat consumption in Japan as the Avian Flu is reported to be transmitted to human beings. China is by far the single largest poultry meat supplier to Japan (including U.S.-origin meat further processed in China) accounting for more than 40% of Japan's total poultry meat imports. Japan must now turn to other suppliers of poultry meat including the United States, Thailand and Brazil. See JA1053 for details. (AgAffairs Tokyo)

**Upcoming events:** June 25 Great American-Italian Cuisine Promotion at Ambassador's Residence; June 26-29 California Tree Fruit Agreement Team; New American Ambassador Howard H. Baker expected to arrive in Japan in early July; July 6 Fourth of July Reception at Ambassador's Residence.